HEARTSTRINGS

Connecting CHD supporters

MARCH 2025

Spring is here, bringing new energy and gratitude! We're thrilled to share that The Krueger Hat Trick Foundation donated **over $13,000** to Heart Warrior Families and local children's hospitals during Heart Month. With your incredible support, we provided Heart Hero hospital bags, financial assistance, and comforting resources to families in need. We can't thank each sponsor, donor, and supporter enough for making this amazing impact possible!

We're calling all organizations that are looking to become a sponsor and support a great cause that supports families in need both locally and beyond. KHT has a wide variety of corporate sponsorships as well as sponsorships for all our events. Sponsorships are key to being able to host the fundraisers that allow us to continue to provide so much for so many. And as always, we're open to creating a sponsorship that will fit best with your organization.

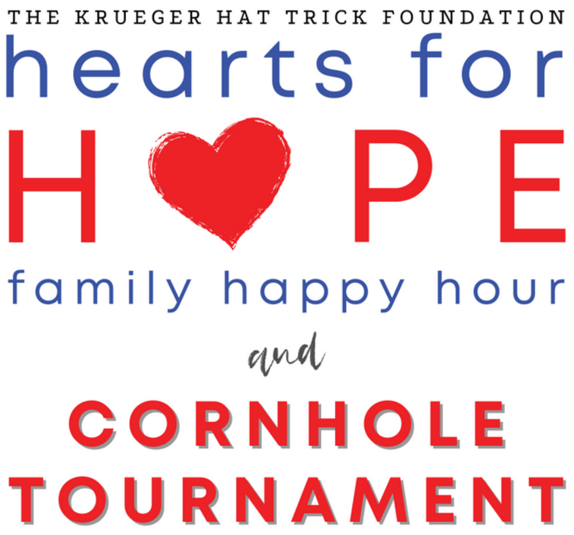
If you’re looking for other ways to support KHT and so many Heart Families, you can take part in our Fairway Fortune 50/50 Raffle for Tiny Champions. This 50/50 is open to everyone across the US, giving you a chance to win big while supporting a great cause! Learn more and enter to win at thekht.org/2025fairwayfortune.

Looking ahead, we’re excited for the Hearts for Hope Family Happy Hour + Cornhole Tournament on June 8th at Twain’s Tavern. Join us for an afternoon of family fun with live music, a cornhole tournament, and activities for kids. Your participation helps us continue our mission of supporting Heart Warriors and their families. For details and tickets, visit thekht.org/2025heartsforhope.

We’re also preparing for the Green Hearts Open Charity Golf Tournament on June 9th at Compass Pointe Golf Courses. Gather your foursome for a day on the green, complete with contests, prizes, tons of complimentary food and beverages, and an opportunity to connect with fellow supporters. For more information and foursome registration, visit thekht.org/2025greenheartsopen.

With gratitude,
Katelin Krueger

Upcoming Events



HEARTS FOR HOPE

Family Happy Hour & Cornhole Tournament

Sunday, June 8, 2025
1:00 PM - 6:00 PM
Twain's Tavern | Pasadena, MD

Join Us!

GREEN HEARTS OPEN

Charity Golf Tournament

Monday, June 9, 2025
Shotgun start at 9:00 AM
Compass Pointe Golf Courses | Pasadena, MD

Register Now!

FAIRWAY FORTUNE

50/50 Raffle for Tiny Champions

Monday, June 9, 2024

Enter to Win!

Heart Warrior Of the Month

Meet Sydney

Sydney was born full-term with no complications. Her medical team heard a heart murmur and she was admitted to the children's hospital for some additional testing. After her cardiac echocardiogram she was diagnosed with multiple heart issues including cardiomyopathy and pulmonary stenosis. Sydney was also diagnosed with a relatively rare genetic condition called Noonan syndrome, which affects 1 in 1,000-2,500 babies worldwide. Many people with Noonan syndrome are born with multiple CHDs including valve conditions, thickening of the heart muscle, issues with heart structures, and irregular heart rhythm. Other symptoms of Noonans can vary greatly and range from mild to severe, including stopping typical development in various parts of the body such as facial features, short height, and other physical complications.

Sydney was put on the heart transplant list and received her new heart in 2019 within her first few months of life. Sydney spent her first 6 months of life in the hospital receiving treatment, including her heart transplant time and recovery.

Sydney loves to sing a long to just about anything and loves Daniel Tiger! She’s always smiling, very social, and loves to color and paint!

Share Your Heart Warrior Story

CHD News & Articles

Teen's Face Went Numb at the Start of a Calculus Exam. Another Migraine? No. A Stroke.

Reprinted From American Heart Association News

It was midterm week at Clarence High School in New York and senior Maddy Ferriter was ready. At 9 a.m., she took her seat in the lecture hall for her AP calculus exam. She turned behind her to chat with a friend about the Buffalo Bills football game the night before. She turned back to the front of the room when the teacher announced it was time to pass out the exams.

In that instant, the entire left side of her body went numb. "I can't feel my face," she whispered to a friend next to her. Her friend couldn't understand. Ferriter was sitting in the front row, so she gestured the teacher over. "I need help," she said. "I can't feel my body." The teacher helped Ferriter into the hallway. She sat down and tried to process what was happening. "Can I really not feel this side of my body?" she thought. "Is this just stress over the big exam?" The school nurse arrived.

"What's your name?" she asked Ferriter. "What time is it? Where are you?" Ferriter answered everything correctly. The nurse called Maddy's parents, John and Kim Ferriter, to let them know what was going on.

John arrived about 10 minutes later. Maddy still couldn't move her left side. Because Maddy had a history of migraines that caused numbness and tingling in her extremities, they figured she was suffering from one. John called her neurologist and was told to bring her in. An hour later, she had an MRI.

It revealed that Maddy was having a stroke. By the time she reached the hospital, too much time had passed since the onset of her symptoms for her to receive clot-busting medication. John, a former MRI technician, blamed himself for not having considered stroke as a possibility and getting her to the hospital instead of the neurologist.

Maddy's youth and overall health helped speed her recovery. The numbness lingered for a few days, but no other symptoms appeared evident. Her biggest fear was how the stroke might impact her immediate plans – like going to prom and playing her final season of varsity softball and walking across the stage at commencement.

"What's the earliest I can be back in school?" she would ask her doctors. "Softball starts in two months. There's no way I'm missing it." She was back in school the following week. Shortly before her stroke, Maddy had received a new electric guitar. It turned out to be just what she needed for physical therapy, especially since the tingling in her fingers was the last to leave. "She worked her tail off to recover – to train her brain to communicate with the fingers again – because that's who she is," John said.

Tests done at the hospital revealed that Maddy's stroke likely stemmed from a previously undiagnosed heart defect she'd had since birth: a hole in her heart that didn't close on its own called a patent foramen ovale.

Before the softball season, Maddy underwent a procedure to close the hole. Within a week, she was back on the ball field.

Two years later, Maddy is a sophomore at the University of Buffalo, pursuing a career in biomedical engineering, a decision she reaffirmed after undergoing numerous tests and imaging.

"Seeing what was possible was eye-opening. Like, holy cow, medicine and engineering have come such a long way and are going to go even farther," Maddy said. "It got me excited to start college and see what I can do to impact this world in terms of medical devices and medical engineering."

Maddy is also passionate about spreading awareness that strokes can happen at any age, a desire that became especially strong in the hospital as she began to grasp that she was having a stroke.

"This isn't supposed to happen to 18-year-olds," she recalls telling her parents. "We've got to let more people know about this." Her dad had gently responded, "I don't disagree with you, but let's get you healthy first, kid. Then we can work on the awareness part."

DID YOU KNOW

1 OUT OF EVERY 120 BABIES IN THE UNITED STATES IS BORN WITH A HEART DISEASE.

WHAT DOES KHT DO?

- Hospital Comfort Kits
- Family Financial Aid
- Hospital Wish List Donations
- UMMS Children's Hospital Children's Heart Program
- CHD Week Goodies
- Funding Beads of Courage
- And more!

Learn More

Franco's Story

Reprinted From Mended Little Hearts Blog

Franco’s story began at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, where he and his twin brother, Emilio, made their arrival in October 2024. Even before he took his first breath, Franco was already showing his fierce determination, wiggling his way into the world during the C-section as if to say, “I’m here, and I’m ready to fight.”

Born with complex congenital heart disease and three secondary diagnoses—Ventricular Septal Defect, aortic arch hypoplasia, and hypoplastic aortic and mitral valves—Franco's journey was far from simple. But from day one, he was nothing short of a warrior. At just three days old, he underwent lifesaving open-heart surgery, an ordeal most could never imagine, but Franco fought through. After weeks of recovery, he was discharged, and the joy of finally bringing him home was unmatched.

But Franco's battle wasn't over. Less than three weeks later, he was rushed back to the hospital for a valvuloplasty. This time, the road to recovery was even steeper. Franco faced three major complications of an infection at the incision site, a blood clot in his left leg, and complete heart block. Doctors inserted temporary pacing wires, unsure if his heart would beat strongly enough on its own again. For three days, they waited. Then, just when it seemed a pacemaker might be the next step, Franco's heart began to regain its rhythm on its own, a miracle that left everyone in awe.

There were more hospital stays ahead. Deep retractions and difficulty breathing led doctors to discover a blood vessel pressing on Franco's trachea, a result of his first surgery. Yet even through these challenges, Franco's strength never faltered. By Christmas Eve, he was back home where he belonged, thriving and hitting milestones that doctors once feared might be delayed.

Though the possibility of an NG tube was considered when bottle feeding seemed difficult, Franco proved once again that he was capable of so much more. He worked hard, and despite the weight he lost during his hospital stays, he began to gain it back steadily, reaching 8 pounds, 5 ounces by three months old—no small feat for a little boy who had dropped to just over 4 pounds during his hardest days.

Today, though there are more hurdles ahead with his aortic arch and valves needing attention, Franco's spirit remains unbroken. Every moment is a testament to his resilience, his bravery, and the miracles that have brought him this far. His journey has been paved with challenges, but with every battle won, there is gratitude—for his strength, for the doctors and nurses at CHOP, and most of all, for the gift of his life.

Franco is a fighter. He is brave. And with his family by his side, he continues to defy the odds and show the world what a true warrior looks like.

Stories from the Heart: Heart Warrior Siblings

Reprinted From Children’s Heart Foundation

Meet two incredible Heart Warrior siblings, Millie and Audie, who were both born with tetralogy of Fallot (TOF). They, along with their family, participate in the Cleveland Congenital Heart Walk.

Their family shares: "Our reason for walking is quite simple — it’s for our children. In November 2019 we were living in our hometown of Buffalo, NY and were expecting our second child. We learned at our 19 week ultrasound that she had a congenital heart defect, tetralogy of Fallot. Buffalo did not have pediatric cardiac surgeon, so we traveled to Boston, MA for her birth and then again for her open heart surgery at 7 months old. We were incredibly fortunate in that she had a beautiful repair without complications and aside from some struggles with respiratory illnesses that have landed us in the hospital, it really has been a best case scenario in many ways. She is now 5 years old and thriving! She is just starting kindergarten and is so excited.

Unfortunately, our connection to CHD doesn’t end with our daughter. After much consideration, we decided to expand our family and learned this past November that we were pregnant with our third child. Despite extensive negative genetic testing on our daughter previously, we were scheduled for a fetal echo at 16 weeks due to the family history, where we unfortunately learned that our son would also have tetralogy of Fallot, the exact same diagnosis as our daughter. He was born at the end of July and is doing very well, although it appears that he will require more interventions/surgeries than our daughter did. For right now we are just treasuring each day with him and hoping for the best possible outcome come surgery time.

Through all of this, our family has adopted a bit of a mantra and that is “Be kind, head up, heart strong”. What is so incredible about so many of these kids is that you would never know anything is wrong with them to look at them, and like so many other people, they are fighting invisible battles. For that reason we say be kind and strive to lift people up. We also know how easy it is to focus on the negatives and the worries that come along with these diagnoses, and so we make a strong effort to find joy in the little things, show gratitude each day, and to keep our heads up. And lastly, these kids have such battles to fight, as do their families, and even with open heart surgery, there is no cure for #CHD. So, for these lifelong battles we say keep your heart strong.

We fundraise and walk to spread awareness about CHD not only for our kids with tetralogy of Fallot, but also for our heart healthy son who has also been profoundly impacted by these CHD journeys, for our many friends in the heart community, and for those who we have lost far too soon to CHD."

Heart Families

Want your Heart Warrior’s courage to be featured by KHT? Email us your story. By sharing, you’re raising CHD awareness and giving hope to other Heart Families.

Share Heart Warrior Highlight

If you've navigated life with a CHD, your advice could be a lifeline to others. Share your helpful tips to support the Heart Family community.

Share Helpful Advice

CHD Resources

General CHD Support

- Kids Health
- My Heart Visit- Peer Support
- Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

Sibling Support

- Sibling Support Project
- Comfort Zone Camp

Family Support

- Medicine Assistance Tool
- Rx Hope
- CDC

View More

Become A Sponsor & Make A Difference!

Corporate sponsorships are open for 2025! Partner with us to enjoy year-round recognition while helping us meet our goals and create meaningful change.

Your support directly impacts the lives of heart warriors and their families. Join us as a sponsor today and make a lasting difference!

THE KRUEGER HAT TRICK FOUNDATION

CORPORATE SPONSORSHIPS

**To be included in Hearts for Hope & Green Hearts Open, sponsorship must be purchased by May*

	MIRACLE MAKERS DIAMOND $15,000	HEALING HEARTS PLATINUM $10,000	HEART HEROES GOLD $7,000	LITTLE ANGELS SILVER $4,000	LITTLE WARRIOR SUPPORTERS $1,500
BRAND EXPOSURE					
Name on KHT Heartstrings Newsletter	♥ LOGO	♥ LOGO	♥ LOGO	♥	♥
Featured social media posts for one rolling year	♥ 12	♥ 12	♥ 6	♥ 4	♥ 3
Name placement on official event website	♥ LOGO	♥ LOGO	♥ LOGO	♥	♥
Gratitude posts on event-related social media platforms	♥	♥	♥	♥	♥
Opportunity to provide items in welcome gifts and/or auction items	♥	♥			
Opportunity to set up info booth	♥				
EVENT RECOGNITION					
Name featured in promotional materials & event signage	♥ LOGO	♥ LOGO	♥ LOGO	♥	♥
Name in electronic programs	♥ LOGO	♥ LOGO	♥ LOGO	♥	♥
Verbal recognition during events	♥	♥			
VIP ACCESS & EVENT TICKETS					
Hearts for Hope Family Happy Hour + Cornhole Tournament Sunday in June	♥ 10 tickets	♥ 8 tickets	♥ 6 tickets	♥ 4 tickets	
Green Hearts Open Charity Golf Tournament Monday in June	♥ 2 foursomes	♥ 2 foursomes	♥ 1 foursome	♥ 1 foursome	
Entry into Fairway Fortune: 50/50 Raffle for Tiny Champions Drawing at Golf Tournament	♥ x3	♥ x2	♥	♥	♥
Little Hearts Big Hopes Bull & Oyster Bash Saturday in September	♥ 2 tables	♥ 2 tables	♥ 1 table	♥ 1 table	
Santa Brunch Weekend in December	♥ 10 tickets	♥ 8 tickets	♥ 6 tickets	♥ 4 tickets	

Thank you for your generosity and support!

Become A Sponsor

Thank You to Our Corporate Sponsors

Healing Hearts Platinum Corporate Sponsors

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Let's Connect!

Krueger Hat Trick Inc. P.O. Box 725 New Windsor, Maryland 21776

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Check out our website! →